

August 29, 1946

Dear Florence,

Many thanks for your sweet letter, and for all the work you did on the Neely-Pepper Bill! I think that we will just have to work on it again after Congress reconvenes in January, because there was no opposition in the debate on the Bill about the amount of money, but just how the Commission and the work was to be organized.

Pepper is coming to town on the 12th and I expect to see him for lunch.

Albert has heard from the Governor, and he is evidently planning to visit New York in the next few weeks.

I went down to Washington to be present at the first meeting of the National Mental Health Research Council, and the Advisory Committee which has been appointed to advise Parran on the administration of the National Mental Health Institute Act. The Committee membership is General William Memminger, Doctor George Stevenson of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, Doctor Frank Tallman, state superintendent of mental institutions in Ohio, Doctor David Levy, Doctor Edward Strecker of Philadelphia (a domineering psychiatrist of the old school) who is connected with the University of Pennsylvania, and Doctor John Romano, who is now at Rochester University. Among the alternates for these advisers are Doctor Franz Alexander and Doctor Frank Fremont-Smith, Doctor Malamud and Doctor Chalmers.

After an all-day meeting, Doctor and Mrs. Parran gave a dinner, and I had a long conversation with Doctor Dyer, the head of the Public Health Service's National Institute of Health (the research division of the USPHS). Do you remember when Dyer testified, probably to Pepper, that the Public Health Service had never asked for more than two million dollars for research in all categories of diseases? Well, believe it or not, as a result of our agitations and efforts, including that hearing, the USPHS has demanded and got \$1,772,000 for cancer research alone, as compared with a top amount of \$500,000 last year, or any other year; and \$3,000,000 in the field of cardiovascular diseases alone, according to Dyer's statement to me at the dinner, and a letter he wrote.

He is also talking about trying to build a big cancer research hospital of 300 beds, with a 200 bed cardiovascular diseases research hospital connected with it, at Bethesda; and for next year they want \$31,000,000 for cancer research alone at this hospital, so you can see that they have been awakened!

Dyer also admits the cancer campaign was a great help to him in getting the additional funds! This is just to show you that all our agitations have not been in vain!

We had a pleasant time at Croton, but Albert was not feeling terribly well as a result of the sickness he had early in July when we were at Gimbel's.

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After his doctors got back a month later and looked at his x-rays, they decided he had had bronchial pneumonia! He still is not completely right.

I spoke to Audrey a few days ago. After some shenanigans with Florey, some other doctor is finally giving her streptomycin after transatlantic telephone calls to Keefer, as she has a bad coli infection.

When are you leaving on your tour of ranches? And when do you plan to hit New York, approximately? I know how busy you must have been, and hope it was all fun.

Have you seen Senator Taylor yet? Ask him why he did not vote for the Equal Rights Bill.

I am enclosing an article by Maisel from McCall's, which I thought you might not see.

Write me soon. Much love to you, dear,

Yours,

Mrs. Daniel J. Mahoney
Ketchum
Idaho

P.S. I can't wait to see your hair! I hope it has enchanted all the boys' constituents this summer!